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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
FRESNO DIVISION**

William Strong,

Plaintiff,

v.

Carolyn Colvin¹, ACTING
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL
SECURITY,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:24-cv-00988-EPG

**STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND
PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND
EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL
ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT; ~~PROPOSED~~
ORDER**

(ECF No. 14)

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of ONE THOUSAND THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS and 63/100 (\$1,039.63) under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and costs in the amount of zero dollars (\$0.00) under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920, 2412(d).

¹ Carolyn Colvin became the Acting Commissioner of Social Security on November 30, 2024. Pursuant to Rule 25(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Carolyn Colvin should be substituted for Martin O'Malley as the defendant in this suit. No further action need be taken to continue this suit by reason of the last sentence of section 205(g) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

1 Plaintiff was the prevailing party in this matter and Plaintiff is an individual whose net worth
2 does not exceed \$2,000,000 at the time the civil action was filed. The position of the Commissioner
3 was not substantially justified and an award of fees is not unjust.

4 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the
5 matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to Plaintiff's attorney. Under *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.
6 Ct. 2521, 2528-29 (2010), EAJA fees awarded by this Court belong to the Plaintiff and are subject to
7 offset under the Treasury Offset Program (31 U.S.C. § 3716(c)(3)(B) (2006)). Any EAJA fees should
8 therefore be awarded to Plaintiff and not to Plaintiff's attorney. If, after receiving the Court's EAJA
9 fee order, the Commissioner (1) determines that Plaintiff has assigned his right to EAJA fees to his
10 attorney; (2) determines that Plaintiff does not owe a debt that is subject to offset under the Treasury
11 Offset Program, and (3) agrees to waive the requirements of the Anti-Assignment Act, then the EAJA
12 fees will be made payable to Plaintiff's attorney. However, if there is a debt owed under the Treasury
13 Offset Program, the Commissioner cannot agree to waive the requirements of the Anti-Assignment
14 Act, and the remaining EAJA fees after offset will be paid by a check or electronic fund transfer (EFT)
made out to Plaintiff, but delivered to Plaintiff's attorney.

15 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney
16 fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or
17 otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and
18 all claims that Plaintiff and/or Counsel including Counsel's firm may have relating to EAJA attorney
19 fees in connection with this action.

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1 The parties further agree that the EAJA award is without prejudice to the right of Plaintiff's
2 attorney to seek attorney fees pursuant to Social Security Act § 206(b), 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to
3 the offset provisions of the EAJA. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2412(c)(1) (2006).

4 Respectfully submitted,

5 Dated: December 30, 2024

6 /s/ Jonathan O. Peña

JONATHAN O. PEÑA

7 Attorney for Plaintiff

8 Dated: December 30, 2024

9 PHILLIP A. TALBERT

10 United States Attorney

MATHEW W. PILE

11 Associate General Counsel

Office of Program Litigation

Social Security Administration

12 By: * Justin Lane Martin

13 Justin Lane Martin

14 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney

Attorneys for Defendant

15 (*Permission to use electronic signature
16 obtained via email on December 30, 2024).

ORDER

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses (the "Stipulation," ECF No. 14), **IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the amount of ONE THOUSAND THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS and 63/100 (\$1,039.63) as authorized by the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **January 6, 2025**

/s/ Eric P. Grogan
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE